

surface of said particles comprising at least a first coating layer of biodegradable and bio-compatible material, said coating layer being a continuous and non-porous layer, wherein an average thickness of said coating layer is between 1 and 500 nm.

*B1*  
29. (Amended) A medicament comprising a plurality of coated drug particles, each of said coated drug particles having an average particle size of less than 500 µm in diameter, the surface of said particles comprising at least a first coating layer of biodegradable and bio-compatible material, said coating layer being a continuous and non-porous layer, wherein an average thickness of said coating layer is between 1 and 500 nm, the coated drug particles being obtainable through a process comprising depositing said polymeric coating particles onto the surface of host drug particles by a process comprising pulsed laser ablation.

*B2*  
31. (Amended) The medicament according to claim 28, wherein said medicament consists essentially of said plurality of said coated drug particles.

*B3*  
50. (Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising the medicament of claim 28 and a pharmaceutically acceptable solution.

*B4*  
66. (Amended) A method for treating patients, comprising the steps of:  
providing a medicament comprising a plurality of coated drug particles, each of said coated drug particles having an average particle size of less than 500 µm in diameter, the surface of said particles comprising at least a first coating layer of biodegradable and bio-compatible material,

said coating layer being a continuous and non-porous layer, wherein an average thickness of said coating layer is between 1 and 500 nm, and

treating a respiratory disorder or pulmonary infection in a human patient using said medicament.

*B1* 67. (Amended) The method of claim 66, wherein said medicament is a pharmaceutically-acceptable formulation.

68. (Amended) A method of preparing a medicament, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of core drug particles, each of said core drug particles having an average particle size of less than 500  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter, and  
*core New Matter?*  
depositing onto the surface of said plurality of core drug particles at least a first coating layer that comprises a plurality of polymeric coating particles, said coating layer being biodegradable, bio-compatible, wherein an average thickness of said coating layer is between 1 and 500 nm, said depositing step by a process comprising pulsed laser ablation under vacuum, wherein said vacuum is between 1 mTorr and 1 Torr.

*B5* 70. (Amended) The method according to claim 68, wherein said coating layer is continuous and non-porous.